would issue a list of those countries where the lives of Indian labourers or workers are in danger;

(b) what measures Government are taking to avoid the recurrence of the problem like Indian hostage episode in Iraq; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Government has not issued a list of countries which are dangerous for Indian workers.

(b) Taking into consideration the situation that might develop in foreign countries from time to time, the Government would consider advising Indian nationals against travel to such countries, suspending emigration clearance and facilitating the return of Indian workers, if required.

(c) Due to deteriorating security situation in Iraq, where three Indian drivers have been taken hostage, a travel advisory was issued advising Indian nationals not to visit Iraq for the time being, emigration clearance has been suspended and the cooperation of Governments of Kuwait and Jordan has been sought for preventing the movement of Indian nationals across their borders to Iraq.

U.S. Deputy Secretary's statement regarding India

1672. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage has made anti-India statements in Islamabad on his recent visit there;

(b) whether he discussed violation of human rights in Kashmir with Government as he claimed in Islamabad; and

(c) whether it is an interference in internal affairs of India by USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Government of India is not aware of any anti-India statement made by US Deputy Secretary of State during his recent visit to Islamabad.

(b) The issue of human rights was not discussed during any of the official meetings that US Deputy Secretary of State had in New Delhi.

(c) The question does not arise.

Trainers to Iraq

1673. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send trainers to Iraq to help the present Government of Iraq;

(b) if so, how many people have already gone and how many are being sent, category-wise; and

(c) what steps have been taken for the protection of these people being sent to Iraq as trainers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Helpline services and open houses for expatriates in Saudi Arabia

1674. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia is setting up a 24 hour helpline for its expatriates in distress and our diplomatic mission in Riyadh and Jeddah are also in the process of organizing open houses on every second Thursday of the month to settle the problems of their expatriates;

(b) if so, details in this regard; and

(c) the names of the other countries where Indian Mission propose to start helpline services and conducting open houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) has set up a telephone based helpline for Indian expatriates to contact our Mission for advice and assistance in redressing their grievances. Embassy of India in Riyadh